

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11 and 16-42 are pending. Claims 20-42 have been added.

The newly added claims correspond to claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,403,595 B1 (hereinafter referred to as the '595 patent). The newly added claims are supported by the present specification and correspond to at least the claims the '595 patent as outlined in the following Table 1:

Table 1:

Support for Newly Added Claims and Claims of the '595 Patent to which they Correspond

Newly Added Claim	Location of Support in Present Specification	Corresponding Claim from '595 Patent
20	Page 14, line 9 to page 18, line 17 and original claims 1 and 2	1
21	Page 17, line 7	2
22	Page 14, line 13 and page 17, line 3	3
23	Page 14, line 16	5
24	Page 43, lines 20-21	6
25	Pages 63-64, pages 64-65, pages 67-70, pages 71-72, pages 79-81 and pages 88-91	9
26	Page 96, lines 11-16 and page 107, lines 4-7	10
27	Page 97, lines 19-21	11
28	Page 97, lines 17-19	12

Newly Added Claim	Location of Support in Present Specification	Corresponding Claim from '595 Patent
29	Page 98, lines 5, 9, 14 and 15	13
30	Page 96, lines 11-16 and page 107, lines 4-7	14
31	Page 97, lines 19-21	15
32	Page 97, lines 17-19	16
33	Page 98, lines 5, 9, 14 and 15	17
34	Page 97, lines 19-21	18
35	Page 97, lines 17-19	19
36	Page 98, lines 5, 9, 14 and 15	20
37	Page 97, lines 19-21	21
38	Page 97, lines 17-19	22
39	Page 98, lines 5, 9, 14 and 15	23
40	Page 97, lines 19-21	24
41	Page 97, lines 17-19	25
42	Page 98, lines 5, 9, 14 and 15	26

These claims are presented pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 135(b) in order to preserve applicants right to request an interference with the '595 patent, if desired.

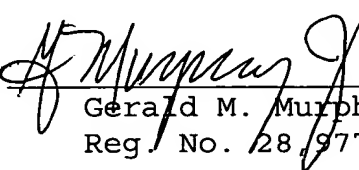
It is suggested that a suitable count for an interference, if declared, would be the broadest allowable claim of the present application which defines the same patentable invention as the claims of the '595 patent. For instance, the newly added claims 20-42 are suggested as a suitable count.

It is submitted that the effective filing date of the present application is December 26, 1997, i.e., the filing date of Applicant's earliest Japanese priority application. Since this date is before the earliest priority date claimed in the '595 patent, it is submitted that no statement or showing under 37 C.F.R. §1.608 is required. Applicants will submit certified English translations of Japanese patent applications 9-367538 filed on December 26, 1997 and 10-311491 filed on October 30, 1998 in the future.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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